

It's About YOLUth

Newsletter of the Utah State Youth Council on Workforce Services • April 2005



What's New:

- 2 TAL Update
- 3 Region Spotlight:
NORTH
- 6 Region Updates
- 10 Youth Council
Schedule
- 10 Contact Information



WORTH a million BUCKS...

Getting a college degree can put an extra million in your pocket

While getting a college degree might not appeal to everyone, high schoolers might want to consider that an average high school graduate will earn about \$1.2 million during his or her working lifetime, while the average college graduate will earn \$2.1 million.

Currently, 85 percent of Americans who are over the age of 25 have finished high school (89 percent of whites, 80 percent of blacks and 50

percent of Hispanics). The study found that 85 percent of adult women had finished high school, and 84 percent of men.

The number of women over 25 who have college degrees went up from 19 percent to 26 percent over the last 10 years. Men had an increase, too, and their percentage of college degree holders now stands at 29 percent.

Fifty percent of adult Asians have earned college degrees. Twenty-four percent of blacks have their college degrees.

continued on page 10

Chair's Message

We would like to welcome two new members to the State Youth Council. The first is **Pamela Russell**, supervisor of Independent Living Coordinators, who will represent the Division of Child and Family Services. We welcome her input as we continue serving those youth in foster care transitioning to adult living. Next, from the Western Region, **Becky Cox** with Utah Dixie's Promise will serve as Chair of the Western Regional Youth Council and as a member of our State Youth Council.

We recognize the work that goes on in each region under the direction of the Youth Council Chairs and we express appreciation to each of them for contributing their time and talents both in their region and on the State Youth Council.

Jan Zogmaister





TRANSITION TO ADULT LIVING

UPDATE BY JANE BROADHEAD

Utah is making excellent progress on implementing the transition to adult living (TAL) initiative. TAL is a project that goes a long way towards satisfying the requirements of the Department of Labor's new vision for youth in their Training and Employment Guidance Notice No. 3-04 due to its emphasis on providing services to the neediest youth.

The first year of the TAL project was spent building the infrastructure at the state level. During year two, the implementation team has continued building infrastructure while asking regions to 'operationalize' the work from year one.

Training

A cross-agency TAL training committee, comprised of staff from DCFS, DWS and WIA youth contractors, created four phases of training.

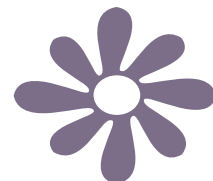
Phase I is an introduction to TAL for affected agency staff. Specialists from the Department of Human Services and DCFS provided orientation to DCFS staff across the state. Training specialists from DWS created a brief web-based training kit regarding TAL. These materials were delivered to DWS and WIA contract staff this month. TAL Phase II is a one-day orientation

for regions and community partners. At least one session per region will be held in June and the remainder are scheduled during July and August of 2005. The purpose is to bring together community partners who serve youth in foster care and to serve other at-risk youth. These orientation sessions will provide information about the new resources provided by DCFS, DWS and WIA through the TAL initiative, and will create a forum to discuss strengths and needs in working together to serve at-risk youth. Watch for an invitation!

Phase III training will be a web-based module that will include detailed information for accessing TAL services and will include information on pathways, etc. Phase III of the training will provide standardized training to new youth case managers and any new interested partners (from any agency or organization) that is easily accessible.

The intent of Phase IV is follow-up training provided by individual agencies for internal staff. All phases of training are expected to be completed by the end of December 2005. For more information on TAL go to <http://www.dcms.utah.gov/tal.htm>.

A forum will be created to discuss strengths and needs in working together to serve at-risk youth



...coordinating, disseminating and ensuring quality services to Utah youth.

north region: in THE SPOTLIGHT

North Region Youth Council Alive and Well

Our new Youth Council Chair is Scott Williams, a 4-H/Youth Development USU Extension Agent, who is originally from Idaho and graduated from USU. He has over 11 years experience with USU Extension and youth services. He has a keen interest in youth programs and in helping youth succeed. We look forward to working with him as our Youth Council Chair.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, DWS will now provide all WIA Youth services in the Box Elder, Cache and Rich county areas. Brent Welsh is an employment counselor in the Logan DWS office and will provide WIA Youth Services to the

Cache and Rich counties. He comes to DWS from CAPSA (Community Abuse Prevention Services Agency) in Logan. He has jumped into his new employment with both feet and has been busy serving youth currently enrolled, recruiting new youth, and giving presentations to the local high schools. Vicki Fenton is an employment counselor in the Brigham City DWS office. She has been with DWS for several years and has recently assumed responsibility for WIA Youth services in Box Elder County. Brent and Vicki are currently recruiting youth and developing a Summer Youth Employment Opportunity project for the Bear River area.

DWS will contract with Utah State University to provide a Summer

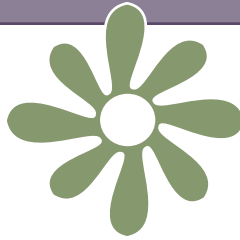
Youth Employment Opportunity (SYEO) for approximately 15 youth in the area. In addition, plans are under way for a leadership project as well. DWS is partnering with the Hispanic Health Coalition to host a health fair for the Hispanic Community on June 18, 2005 at Willow Park in Logan. Everyone in the community is invited and it is anticipated that approximately 30 agencies will participate. The WIA Youth will have an opportunity to assist in the planning of the career fair as well as participate in a variety of activities on the day of the fair.

Our Regional Council held a strategic planning meeting in March. During the session the Regional Youth Council members in attendance participated in a break-out session to brainstorm and identify goals for the coming year. We will continue to work on the TAL initiative as a pilot site for the state. The Regional Youth Council will also be an advisory board for this initiative. In addition, the council plans to work with other community resources to

continued on page four



NORTH Region: continued



assist youth in developing the necessary soft skills to be successful. We are very excited about the changes to our service delivery and the opportunities we now have to serve youth in the Bear River area.

Success Stories from the Bear River Region:

Luis H. enrolled in the WIA Youth Program in September, 2004. Luis is currently in foster care and is also receiving coordinated services through the Transition to Adult Living (TAL) program. He attends school full-time and receives tutoring services. He will graduate this spring. He has taken the ACT and is preparing to enroll in a post-secondary training program to study graphic design.

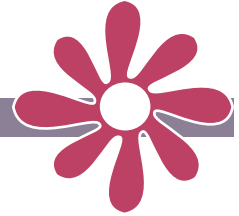
Luis is also currently participating in a paid internship at a local print company. The internship is giving him valuable field experience. His employer has nothing but praise for his work ethic and hopes to hire him as an employee when a position becomes available.

Thomas Q. is an older youth participating in the WIA youth program in Logan for the last five months. Thomas is very productive in the program. He received his driver's license and is currently attending a GED prep course. Thomas has chosen to go into the field of machining and will be starting his machining classes at BATC next month. Thomas has a great desire to succeed, a willingness to learn, and works hard at all that he does.

Thomas wanted a paid internship with a machinist company in Logan but figured it was a long shot since he had no experience.

With DWS' help, Thomas approached a company with the prospect of an internship. The company looked over Thomas' resume and decided that they would hire Thomas immediately instead of doing the internship. Thomas is now working full-time making almost \$11.00 an hour. The company will also give him a bonus and a raise when he completes the Machinist course at BATC.





Futures Through Training Update

The past few months have been exciting at Futures Through Training (FFT). Six new case managers, two intake workers/case managers, and an educational coordinator were hired. We also hired four new mentors and three new tutors, and enrolled over 100 youth since January. We established partnerships with the Divisions of Child and Family Services and Juvenile Justice Services and are currently serving 105 Transition to Adult Living Youth. FFT really appreciates all of their partners and the numerous referrals and are glad for the opportunity to serve youth in Weber, Morgan, and Davis Counties.

Youth Highlights

Matthew P. has been in the FFT/WIA Youth Program since July 2004. Matthew is working full-time at Wendy's trying to support his fiancée and two children. He just received his Adult Education diploma and is going to begin schooling at the Ogden Weber Applied Technology College to obtain his Fork Lifting Certification. This should help him find a higher paying job. Matthew worked very hard to get his diploma and to improve his life. Matthew completes all assignments without any complaints. He is a great example for the new youth entering the program.

Jessica R. is a delightful young woman enrolled for one year. Jessica has been very productive while also parenting a baby boy.

Jessica completed several work related activities, including driver's education, and CPR training, and obtained a food handler's permit. She is currently pursuing a certification in Medical Transcription and Phlebotomy.

Maribele R. started with FFT in February 2005. She was a high school drop out. She enrolled in Northridge Learning Center, and within a week she had completed one full credit toward receiving her high school diploma. Seeing her own success motivated her, and within three weeks she completed all of her credits for her diploma. Maribele is now very interested in furthering her education at the Ogden Weber Applied Technology Center or Weber State University. She wants to receive more education so that she can help support her family.

Charles P. entered FFT as a younger youth who had dropped out of school. His career goals included becoming an attorney. Charles passed the GED exam the first time he took it and worked through Weber Adult Education to complete his high school diploma. Charles enlisted in the Army and recently left for basic training in Oklahoma. He is looking forward to the challenges and opportunities the military will provide.

Scott C. has been enrolled in FFT for several years. He was in foster care when he enrolled but was released from foster care at the age

of 18. He still did not have a high school diploma. To receive his diploma he needed additional encouragement and assistance. Scott received this at the Northridge Learning Center and completed all of his high school credits. Scott is excited to be the first member of his family to receive his high school diploma and plans to further his education at the Ogden Weber Applied Technology Center.

Erica C. started the WIA Youth program at FFT when she was 20 years old. She had a one-year-old daughter and was expecting her second child. Erica had not received her high school diploma and she found her employment opportunities limited. Now at 21, she received her diploma through the Northridge Learning Center. Erica has also had a work experience with the HEAT program and is the busy mother of two. Erica plans to further her education in the nursing field.

Futures Through Training Best Practice: FFT serves many clients that receive services through DWS. This is a challenge because they are not located in the same building. Customers share the same employment plan through both agencies successfully. FFT and DWS ensure that regular staff meetings are held for these customers and that the employment plan is written with the customer, the FFT case manager, and the DWS employment counselor.



Region Updates

Central Region - Successful Youth

Sonia Caraveo enrolled in the Youth Employability Services (YES) program in September of 2003. Her family immigrated from Mexico two years earlier. At the time of her enrollment, Sonia was 17 years old and attending Granite High School with limited English language skills. Since enrollment in our program she graduated early from high school and began an unpaid internship at Telemundo as a weather/traffic announcer. She attends the University of Utah and is pursuing a bachelor's degree in communications. Her expected graduation date is 2008. Sonia holds down two part-time jobs. She works 20 hours at ClearOne Communications announcing weather and traffic reports and works 10 hours for the Granite School District tutoring English as second language students at Granite High School.

Michelle Barton enrolled in the YES program in May of 2003. She was 20 years old, a single parent of two children and employed as a cashier at Wal-Mart. Michelle was looking to obtain her high school diploma and complete Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) training so she could enter a career field she could enjoy and support her family. Michelle faced the following barriers at the time of her enrollment: low income, basic skills deficiency, high school drop-out, and parenting. While working one-on-one with a Salt Lake/Tooele Applied Technology College (SLTATC) tutor, Michelle completed individualized preparatory study for the GED. She obtained her GED in October, 2004. Michelle completed the CNA class offered through SLTATC and obtained her CNA license in March of 2004. That same

month, Michelle was hired at Cottage Glen (an assisted living facility) as a CNA and was promoted in December. She is currently a Recreational Specialist at the facility. She reports being very happy with her job and has a work schedule where she can spend time with her children and support her family. Michelle is now in follow-up services.

Eastern Region

In February, Eastern Region DWS staff toured the Clearfield and Weber Basin Job Corp Centers to gain a better understanding of how Job Corps operates. "The Eastern Region administers WIA Youth Services through our employment centers," said Sheryl Nisely, Moab Employment Center Manager, who



Weber Basin Job Corps Masonry Trade Program



Day room in one of the dorms at Clearfield Job Corps.

...coordinating, disseminating and ensuring quality services to Utah youth.

Region Updates



Front Row: Barbara Peterson, Vicki Jensen, Connie Perry, Kathy Deets, Rick Ricks, Jeff Olinger, Sarah (Job Corps)

Back Row: Carl Gutke, Gaylinn Frandsen, Lisa Paterson, Colt (Job Corps), John Kijek.



Rick Ricks discussing Job Corps with one of our guides, Colt.

organized the visit. "Job Corps is an important partner and the managers in the region felt strongly about giving staff the opportunity to tour the facilities."

In all, 12 people from the region went on the tours, with at least one representative from each employment center. They traveled from as far away as Blanding. Staff had the opportunity to visit with admissions counselors, academic and trade teachers, and youth to get a sense of what life at a Job Corps center is like. "I was impressed with the teachers," said Carl Gutke of the Blanding Employment Center, "If I was a youth going there, I thought I'd be comfortable with them." Gutke was also impressed with the structure and caring of the environment. "I was impressed with the zero

tolerance policy," he said. "I got the impression that [the attitude is] 'Hey, we do love you, but this is where you need to make a choice.'"

Since 1964, 1.9 million youth have participated in Job Corps nationally. The Clearfield Job Corps serves around 1,320 youth per year, providing instruction for high school completion and certification in 29 trades. Weber Basin Job Corps serves a smaller number, around 230, and offers high school completion and eight trades. According to Job Corps staff, the centers are different in terms of culture and atmosphere but the underlying purpose is the same — to promote employability skills. There are over 120 Job Corps sites in the U.S.; they receive their funding through the Workforce Investment Act.

Region Updates

Western Region

Western Region is working hard to bring out-of-school youth into the program. Robert Depoe and Pat Charles of the Paiute Indian Tribe, and members of the Western region Youth Council, identified approximately 10 out-of-school youth who needed career guidance and assistance in completing school. WinField Kids has started the process of enrolling the youth in WIA Youth services.

Partnering with schools to identify students who will not graduate or who have dropped out is bringing youth into the program. WinField Kids has made great inroads with the counseling departments and schools are referring at-risk students to the program. At Dixie High School, Cheryl Cox, the school counselor and also a member of the Western Region Youth Council, coordinates with WinField Kids to give presentations to seniors who will not graduate.

Western Region has a Training Coordination Committee that consists of a representative responsible for training programs in each of the 11 offices in the region. This committee developed a pathway with Mike Beacco, the Independent Living Coordinator at DCFS and also a member of the Western Region Youth

Council. Foster care youth ages 16 and up will be referred to the DWS office where they will receive career counseling, career exploration, assessment, and job seeking services. If a youth needs additional services they will be enrolled in the WIA Youth program and be connected to WinField Kids services for the 10 elements. DCFS has also committed to invite the employment counselor or a representative from DWS to their Child and Family team meetings for these youth. This has proved to be a great process and will add to the services the youth are offered.

Mountainland Region

We are currently in the process of planning our summer program. This year we are adding a new component, a work simulation project. Our idea stemmed from Debbie Gommert of the Central Texas Workforce Centers, where they hired a teacher and a few aides to create a work environment for their youth. Our goal is to use some of their ideas in establishing an environment where youth will gain occupational skills and a work ethic to help them succeed in their next job.

Each quarter, we continue to be inspired by outstanding efforts made by our youth. The following story illustrates the capabilities of our youth.

When Brooke enrolled in the WIA program nine months ago, she was in foster care and struggling with personal and family issues. The success she later made in work and school has helped her to cope with and overcome some of these issues. Since her enrollment, Brooke has become more



...coordinating, disseminating and ensuring quality services to Utah youth.

Region Updates

responsible and is an active participant in the WIA program.

Brooke has shown initiative by enrolling in a CNA training course. She quickly completed the course and passed the state certification exam. Now Brooke is employed at the East Lake Care Center as a full-time CNA. She enjoys her work and the patients she cares for. This experience motivated Brooke to pursue a career in home health care.

In an effort to improve her nursing skills, Brooke will take a phlebotomy course this spring and plans to continue improving her occupational skills after she completes her senior year at Independence High School. She significantly increased her math skills and is now testing at a post high school grade level. Brooke is a young woman who is determined and willing to do the work necessary to succeed.



***For the latest career
guide information, visit
jobs.utah.gov/wi***

continued from page 1

Advanced-degree holders earned an average of \$72,824 in 2002. Bachelor's degree holders earned an average of \$51,194. And

those with high school degrees earned \$27,280. Those who didn't finish high school earned an average of \$18,826.

adapted from American Demographics

STATE YOUTH COUNCIL SCHEDULE



The State Youth Council meets as part of the State Council on a quarterly basis. The next two meetings are scheduled for July 14 and October 13.

Contact Information

If you have suggestions of comments for the newsletter, please contact Julie Lay at jlay@utah.gov. If you have questions regarding the State Youth Council, please contact Jane Broadhead at jbroadh@utah.gov or go to our Web page at jobs.utah.gov and select State Council/State Youth Council.

If you have questions regarding youth services or youth programs, please contact the Youth Specialist in your area:

**Northern: Julie Anderson, julieanderson@utah.gov
Mountainland: Wendy Hughes, whughes@utah.gov
Central: Rebecca Banner, rbanner@utah.gov**

**Western: Ann Barnson, abarso@utah.gov
Eastern: Kelly Thornton, kthornto@utah.gov**

If you have questions regarding Regional Youth Councils in your area or your Regional Council, please contact the Regional Council Coordinator in your area:

**Northern: Susan Hill, shill@utah.gov
Mountainland: Julie Lay, jlay@utah.gov
Central: Diane Lovell, dianelovell@utah.gov
Eastern: Bob Gilbert, bobgilbert@utah.gov
Southeastern: Lorna O'Berto, loberto@utah.gov
Western: Roger Halladay, rhalladay@utah.gov**



**Proud Member of America's Workforce Network
Equal Opportunity Employer/Program**

Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities by calling (801) 526-9240. Individuals with speech and/or hearing impairments may call Relay Utah by dialing 711. Spanish Relay Utah: 1-888-346-3162.

